(b) and (c) It is proposed to new plant 20,000 hectares during 8th Plan period in the non-traditional areas. A project for world bank financing has been negotiated. Rubber Board has established field offices at a number of locations to render technical and financial assistance.

Export of Granite Blocks

3634. SHRI J.P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer of Unstarred Question 555 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating banning exports unfinished granite blocks and allow only value added items like cut and polished slabs etc; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Failure of MPEDS to promote export of marine products

3635. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MPEDA has failed in promoting exports of marine products;

(b) whether Government are aware that marine products exporters have formed a cartel to bring down the prices of prawn and shrimps paid to the farmers;

(c) whether Governemnt MPEDA had any plans to intervene in the market to stabilise the prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No such thing has come to Government's notice.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Import of Ginseng

3636. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plant called Ginseng has been imported in this country;

(b) if so, how and from which countries and what are the species imported; and

(c) how much foreign exchange has been incured during the last three years on this account?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHIEED): (a) and (b) Ginseng plant is not imported. However, white Ginseng Root Powder, Red Ginseng Root Powder, solid extract with varying saporin contents (from 5% - 6% to 100%) and liquid extract are imported from Singapore, China, Korea, Indonesia, Afganistan, Bulgaria, Germany, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Itally, Spain and Ireland.

(c) During the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 for which data is available, Ginseng roots for a value of Rs. 61.82 lakhs and Rs. 39.48 lakhs, respectively have been imported.

Export of engineering goods

3637. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of Export of Engineering goods during 1986-87 to 1991-92;

(b) whether there was an upward trend of their export and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the recent decision of the Commerce Minsitry to curtail the